



Rotary Nov & Dec '24 Newsletter





Project Poshan

Project POSHAN is an initiative aimed at fighting malnutrition among children, and it often includes a variety of activities designed to improve nutritional outcomes. It is held at our adopted Aanganwadis 36 & 37 at Panaas Gam every week.

Project Poshan @ Anganwadi 36 & 37, Panas Gam

Poshan Week 37 was held on 15 November, the focus was on providing nutritious food to children, which involved distributing bananas and a healthy drink. Rtn Emily Jacob and President Rinki Barman conducted the Poshan and spread happiness.



Week 38 & 39 of Project Poshan

Week 38 of Project Poshan was held on 21 November, the focus continued on improving children's nutrition and well-being. This time, a nutritious combination of chikki (a sweet made from jaggery and peanuts), bananas, and a healthy drink was distributed to children. The unstoppable Rtn Amita Desai and President Rinki Barman spared their valuable time to bring smiles that day.



Poshan Project Week 39 was held on 28 November where soymilk and bananas were provided to 60 children as part of the Poshan initiative. Kudos to the HUMF team, Rtn Amita Desai, PP Rashika Bhardwaj, Rtn Nirupa Patel, Hon Sec Ritu Talwar and President Rinki Barman who attended the Poshan that day.



Week 40, 41 & 42 of Project Poshan

Poshan Week 40 was held on 5 December conducted by Rtn Emily Jacob, Hon Sec PP Ritu Talwar and President Rinki Barman. Bananas and soy milk were distributed to the little angels.



Poshan Week 41 was successfully conducted on 12 December by our dedicated Rotarians Rtn Amita Desai and Hon Sec Ritu Talwar. The children eagerly look forward to the soya chocolate milk and bananas that are provided. This Poshan was sponsored by President Rinki Barman.



Poshan Week 42 was organised on 19 December by Rtn Amita Desai, Rtn Nirupa Patel and PP Rashika Bhardwaj. 85 children benefited from this project where healthy soy milk and bananas were distributed.

Gratitude to PE Gautam Raval and Ann Jayana Raval for their humble contribution!





HUMF 7

To provide nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers, the HUMF team organised HUMF 7 on 28 November at Aanganwadis 36 & 37, Panaas Gam. Half a kg of mung beans and half a kg of jaggery were distributed to 35 pregnant and lactating mothers. All the ladies were also made to swear to not support child marriage or tender-aged marriages.

A special thank you to Rtn. Perna Grover for sponsoring this project. Your support meant a lot!



HUMF 8

Rtn Amita Desai and Rtn Nirupa Patel organised the HUMF 8 at Aanganwadi 23, Panjava Sheri on 19 December to promote menstrual hygiene. Six months supply of sanitary napkins were provided to 35 teenage girls. Kudos to Team HUMF for their persistence!



Anandgram Projects

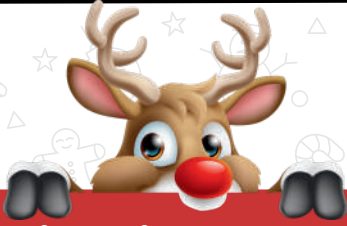
On 6 December, two Anandgram projects were held at Tena village, Hazira. Rtn Nirupa Patel, Rtn Amita Desai, Hon Sec Ritu Talwar and President Rinki Barman visited Tena Rang Primary School to conduct Annapurna wherein Idli-Chutney and Frankies were provided to the students. 60 Rotary bags were also Distributed at the Tena Primary School. The students of both the schools were elated. They welcomed the RSRians with flowers and beaming smiles. Kudos once again to the HUMF team.



Board of Directors Meet

A Board of Directors Meeting was held on 13 December 2024 to plan the next six months in advance and discuss pertinent issues. 12 members of the board attended the meeting which was conducted at the President's residence and the major discussions were about the upcoming events like - fellowships, charity events, joint projects, TRF and so much more. The presence of PE Gautam Raval in a short notice and amidst his busy schedule was truly inspiring. The meeting was followed by a scrumptious dinner.





District Governor 2027-28 Election

The election for District Governor 2027-28 was held on 15 December 2024 at MIYPRIC, Bharuch. President Rinki Barman represented our club, Rotary Club of Surat Riverside and casted the two votes allotted to the club. The two candidates who contested for this coveted post were Rtn Ashish Patwari, member of Rotary Club of Dhule Cross Road and Rtn. Pankaj Naik member of Rotary Club of Gandevi.

PDG Pinky Patel was the Election Chairperson. The Validation Committee consisted of IPDG Nihir Dave as the Chairman and PDG Shrikant Indani, PDG Santosh Pradhan, PDG Prashant Jani, PDG Anish Shah as the members. The Observers and BVC Committee consisted of DGE Amardeep Singh Bunet and DGN Nilesh Shah.

**Heartiest
Congratulations
to DGND Rtn
ASHISH
PATWARI**





The Thar Summit: District Conference

The Thar Summit, District Conference 3060 was held from 20 to 22 December with pomp and grandeur at Amritam Palace, Jodhpur. A team of 20 members from RSR attended this conference. It began with the prestigious Pageantry led by the DG Shri Tushar Shah and the First Lady Nehal Shah. The first day witnessed the speeches delivered by RIPR PDG Mehul Rathod to share about the Magic of Rotary and the Chief Guest Shri Dev Dutt Patnaik who drew a parallel between giving and receiving citing examples from Indian Mythology. The evening air was filled with music and rhythm, a Jugalbandi par excellence was presented by Tejas and Mitali.

The next day, the Rotarians were fortunate to listen to honourable speakers like Shree Ajeet Bajaj - the Mountaineer sharing about courage Higher Than Seven Summits, PRIP Kalyan Banarjee extending his best wishes, PRID Kamal Sanghvi talking about 'Joy of Giving', Lt Colonel KJS Dhillon sharing his 'Kahani Junoon aur Zamir ki', Sudhanshu Mani sharing his views on 'Leadership and Innovation' and finally, the Governor Himself Arif Mohammad Khan talking about the Cultural Heritage of India.





Later in the evening, Indian Idol contestant Shanmukh Priya gave a power packed performance which left the crowd tapping their feet. All in all, it was a super eventful day.

The closing day had Dt. Jinal Shah who shared her expertise on what to eat right, the topic being 'Future Proof Your Health'. This was followed by a session taken by the veteran actor Rakesh Bedi sharing his rich life experiences to let us all 'Get Back to Roots'. The District Conference came to a close on 22 December where all the Rotarians had a wonderful fellowship time. Now, waiting for the 57th at Agra in January 2026.





Fun Moments Down the Memory Lane

The Truck, the Tractor, the Breaker and the JCB of RSR...

It was an early day and RSR had planned the Dangs service annual project. It was early years for this wonderful service as well. On that day, four Rotarians who are Past Presidents now (I refrain from naming them as I want them to recall and have a good laugh) and I began the service. The fruitful and heartfelt giving was followed by long happy hours under the refreshing waterfall. A wonderful lunch of Dangi delicacies was served and a hut was allotted to us for resting. All the four dozed in a few minutes and shortly all were disturbed by each other's loud cacophony of snores. Though disturbed by snores while napping, they happily slept for those few minutes after the happy hours of giving.

We still laugh and wonder...

Who was the TRUCK, the TRACTOR, the BREAKER and the JCB???

By

Rtn Mihir Shukla





A Memorable Evening During my Rotary International GSE Program Visit to France

During my Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) Program visit to France's Rotary District 1660, I had the privilege of being hosted by Rtn. Patrick Cottin, the local club president. This program provided not only professional and cultural exposure but also opportunities to build lifelong friendships. One evening, an interesting and humorous incident unfolded that showcased cultural differences and the universal dynamics of married life.

Patrick and I were enjoying a relaxed evening together, bonding over our shared hobby of drinks and engaging in lively conversation. As the night progressed, we realized that the soda had run out, and we needed more for our next round of drinks. Patrick decided to call his wife, Jill, who was resting in their bedroom upstairs.

Initially, Jill did not respond to Patrick's calls, so he raised his voice to get her attention. Moments later, we heard the distinct sound of her footsteps on the wooden floor, growing louder as she descended the stairs. Her quick, firm steps and her visibly flushed face indicated her displeasure. When she reached us, she firmly told Patrick, "Bankim is your guest, so you better take care of him and don't disturb me," before retreating to her room without providing the soda.





Patrick looked at me with a mix of embarrassment and helplessness and remarked, “Bankim, you must have heard about dominating French women and wives. Today, you’ve experienced it first-hand!”

Sensing his mood, I decided to lighten the situation with humor. I reassured him by saying, “Women in the role of a wife are the same everywhere in the world. If this had happened in India, my wife would have come and delivered the soda, but she would have scolded me just as fiercely once we were back in the bedroom.”

This lighthearted comment made Patrick burst into laughter, and soon we were both laughing heartily, turning the awkward moment into a cherished memory.

This incident not only highlighted the unique aspects of French culture but also underscored the shared experiences of married life across the globe. It was a testament to how Rotary fosters cultural exchange, understanding, and lifelong friendships. Even today, Patrick and Jill remain dear friends, and this story serves as a fond reminder of my enriching GSE journey.

By
Past President Bankim Vashi





From the Editor's Desk

QUICK 5 KNOW-IT ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Trees have Ancient Roots

The tradition of decorating a tree dates back centuries, with its origins in Germany. Early Christians adapted the pagan custom of bringing evergreen trees indoors during winter as a symbol of life and renewal. By the 16th Century, decorated trees became an essential part of Christmas celebrations.

Santa Claus is Inspired by a Real Person

The modern figure of Santa Claus is based on Saint Nicholas, a bishop from what is now Turkey. Known for his generosity and kindness, Saint Nicholas became legendary for secretly giving gifts to those in need. His story gradually transformed into the jolly figure we recognize today.

Rudolph was Born in an Advertising Campaign

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer didn't start as a folk tale, but as a promotional gimmick. In 1939, a Montgomery Ward department store employee wrote the story of Rudolph to attract customers. The character's popularity soared, and he quickly became a beloved holiday icon.



The First Christmas Card was Created in 1843

The tradition of sending Christmas cards began in England. Sir Henry Cole commissioned the first-ever Christmas card, which featured an illustration of a family celebrating together. Today, sending holiday greetings remains a cherished way to connect with loved ones.

‘Jingle Bells’ wasn’t Originally a Christmas Song

‘Jingle Bells’, one of the most famous Christmas songs, was initially written for Thanksgiving! James Lord Pierpont composed it in 1857, but its catchy melody and festive lyrics eventually made it a holiday favorite.

Christmas continues to inspire joy and creativity worldwide. Whether you’re decorating your tree or humming along to holiday tunes, these fun facts serve as a reminder of the season’s rich history and evolving traditions.

Happy Holidays to everyone involved for making this possible!





From the Public Image Chair's Desk

Rotary's Year of Impact

This year, Rotary clubs across the globe have been busy changing lives. From building water wells in villages to running reading programs in schools, Rotarians have completed over 47,000 service projects. The fight against polio is also closer to victory, with fewer cases reported than ever before. These efforts show how working together with a shared purpose can make a real difference.

What Rotary Values Mean to Us

Rotary stands on five key values: Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership. These aren't just words—they guide everything Rotarians do. Service means putting others first. Fellowship builds strong friendships within the club and beyond. Diversity ensures everyone has a voice, no matter their background. Integrity keeps our work honest and transparent. Leadership inspires Rotarians to step up and create solutions. Together, these values help us make the world a better place.





Rotary and Technology: Making a Bigger Difference

Rotary is using technology to do even more good. Virtual meetings let members connect from anywhere, breaking down barriers. Apps make planning events and tracking donations easy. Social media helps share inspiring stories of change with the world. Some projects are even using advanced tools like AI and blockchain to tackle big challenges. Rotary shows that technology and kindness together can make amazing things happen.

Helping Young Leaders Grow with Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary's Youth Exchange program gives students a chance to live and learn in a different country. They get to experience new cultures, make lifelong friends, and grow into confident leaders. Many participants say the program helped shape their goals and inspired them to give back to the world. By investing in young people, Rotary is building a brighter future for everyone.

